GUIDE TO THE SC15 PAEZ FILE

/Although the SC15 Paez file unit actually consists of a number of other highland Chibcha-speaking people, in addition to the Paez proper, as for example the Andaqui (Andaki), Coconuco, Guanaca, Moguex (Guambiano), Pijao (Pinao), Purace, Timana and Yalcon (Cambi), the present file is primarily concerned only with the Paez. These people occupy in most part the highland areas of the region of Tierradentro, department of Cauca in southwestern Colombia. The Paez whose economy today is based primarily on agriculture, were originally one of the old chiefdoms of Colombia, and received some small degree of Inca influence. The file was chosen for processing because of the availability of good literature on these people, in contrast to most Colombian groups aside from the Cagaba and Goajiro.

The file consists of eight sources all written by anthropologists. Of these sources two are in English, one, a translation from the German (1: Nachtigall) and the remaining five (3, 4, 5, 6 & 8), all by Bernal Villa, are translations from the Spanish. 1: Nachtigall is the primary source for this file and presents an excellent over-all coverage of Paez ethnography written by a trained ethnologist. 7: Hernandez de Alba further supplements Nachtigall's work by presenting a cultural summary of the Paez. This source possibly should be read first as a general orientation to the file unit. 2: Pittier de Fábrega also summarizes previously known information on the Paez (primarily from the writings of Castillo y Orozco of about the year 1735) and adds new data from the author's own field work. This source also contains interesting linguistic data which can be of use to those interested in Paez values and classification systems. 3: Bernal Villa is

concerned with the mythology and tales from the parcialidad of Calderas. 4: Bernal Villa deals with various fiestas held by the Paez of Calderas throughout the calendar year, and is concerned primarily with the fiesta of San Juan. 5: Bernal Villa presents a comprehensive study of the function and scope of shamanism and sorcery in Paez society. 6: Bernal Villa is an excellent summary of Paez economy which is based principally on agriculture and further supplemented by livestock raising, hunting, fishing and gathering. The remaining source in this file 8: Bernal Villa deals with the problem of social organization from the standpoint of kinship terminology.

As a whole the file seems to be fairly well-rounded and quite adequate for comparative research. In historical depth the file extends back from 1954 to the early period of Spanish-Indian contact.

Material on the "pest" or ritual contamination has been marked for category 783; descriptive information on the sugar cane crushing apparatus for category 407; the cabildo or native council (including the Gobernador) for 623; the capitan/síndico, for 624; festival houses for 346; shamanistic signs for 787/755 depending on context; and the minga, a community work group, for 476./

Processed in 1966-1968